



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Ambrough Slough, Pool 9, Wis.



Ambrough Slough area in Pool 10 of the Mississippi River, Wisconsin.

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), Ambrough Slough is a side channel on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in Pool 10, about five miles upstream of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The slough enters a 2,500-acre backwater complex of lakes and smaller sloughs. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The entire area has experienced a loss of depth from siltation and aquatic plant decomposition. This limits the area of desirable fish habitat. The area is important spawning and rearing habitat for a variety of fish, but this importance is diminishing.

The proposed project would involve dredging in several of the backwater lakes to provide adequate depth for fish and introducing fresh water to areas that lack adequate dissolved oxygen levels. The project would directly improve fish habitat in about 585 acres of backwater lakes and provide secondary benefits to additional adjacent backwaters.

Status

General design for the project was begun in 1996. A final Definite Project Report was completed in January 2001. Construction will be divided into three stages. Stage 1 is scheduled to begin in 2001. Award of construction contracts for Stages 2 and 3 is scheduled in 2001.

Authority

The Ambrough Slough Habitat Project is being planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP). The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project is being planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Much of this project will be 100 percent Federal cost because it is located on national wildlife refuge lands. However, installation of a culvert for fresh water flow would be located on non-Federal lands. This portion would be cost-shared 75-percent Federal/25-percent non-Federal. The non-Federal sponsor would be the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Operation and maintenance will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin DNR.

Federal Cost	\$2,653,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$116,000
Total Estimated Cost	\$2,769,000